

ORIGINAL



0000206031

**BEFORE THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT  
AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
SALT RIVER PROJECT AGRICULTURAL  
IMPROVEMENT AND POWER DISTRICT, IN  
CONFORMANCE WITH THE  
REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA REVISED  
STATUTES, SECTIONS 40-360, et. seq., FOR A  
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
COMPATIBILITY AUTHORIZING THE  
EXPANSION OF THE COOLIDGE  
GENERATING STATION, ALL WITHIN THE  
CITY OF COOLIDGE, PINAL COUNTY,  
ARIZONA.

Docket No.: L-0000b-21-0393-00197

Case No. 197

**NOTICE OF FILING CERTIFICATE  
OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
COMPATIBILITY**

Paul A. Katz, designee of the Attorney General of Arizona, Mark Brnovich, as  
Chairman and Presiding Officer of the Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting  
Committee, gives notice of a separately filed Certificate of Environmental Compatibility  
with Docket Control of the Arizona Corporation Commission.

DATED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2022.

Paul A. Katz, Chairman  
Arizona Power Plant and Transmission  
Line Siting Committee  
Assistant Attorney General  
[Paul.Katz@azag.gov](mailto:Paul.Katz@azag.gov)

Arizona Corporation Commission

**DOCKETED**

**FEB 23 2022**

**DOCKETED BY**

AZ CORP COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROL

2022 FEB 23 P 2:56

RECEIVED

1 Pursuant to A.A.C. R14-3-204,  
2 the Original and 26 copies were  
3 filed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2022:

4 Docket Control  
5 Arizona Corporation Commission  
6 1200 W. Washington Street  
7 Phoenix, AZ 85007

8 Copy of the above was mailed  
9 this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2022 to:

10 Robin Mitchell, General Counsel  
11 Arizona Corporation Commission  
12 1200 West Washington Street  
13 Phoenix, AZ 85007  
14 rmitchell@azcc.gov

15 Elijah Abinah, Director  
16 Utilities Division  
17 Arizona Corporation Commission  
18 1200 West Washington Street  
19 Phoenix, AZ 85007

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# CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY

Leonard C. Drago      Designee for Director, Arizona Department of  
Environmental Quality



1	John R. Riggins	Designee for Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources
2		
3	Mary Hamway	Appointed Member, representing incorporated cities and towns
4		
5	Rick Grinnell	Appointed Member, representing counties
6	James Palmer	Appointed Member, representing agricultural interests
7	Margaret "Toby" Little	Appointed Member, representing the general public
8	Karl Gentles	Appointed Member, representing the general public
9		

10 The Applicant was represented by Bert Acken of Jennings, Strouss & Salmon,  
11 PLC, and by Karilee Ramaley of SRP. The following parties were granted intervention  
12 pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-360.05: Staff of the Arizona Corporation Commission,  
13 represented by Stephen Emedi and Kathryn Ust; Sierra Club represented by Court Rich  
14 and Eric Hill; Western Resource Advocates represented by Adam Stafford; and Randolph  
15 Residents represented by Dianne Post and Autumn Johnson.

16 At the conclusion of the hearing, the Committee, after considering the (i)  
17 Application, (ii) evidence, testimony and exhibits presented by Applicant and interveners,  
18 and (iii) comments of the public, and being advised of the legal requirements of A.R.S.  
19 §§ 40-360 through 40-360.13, upon motion duly made and seconded, voted 7 to 2 to  
20 grant the Applicant, its successors and assigns, this Certificate for construction of the  
21 Coolidge Expansion Project as described below.

22 **B. PROJECT OVERVIEW.**

23 The Coolidge Expansion Project (CEP or Project) will be located in the City of  
24 Coolidge, Pinal County, and consists of sixteen (16) General Electric LM6000 PC  
25 SPRINT NxGen individual simple-cycle combustion turbine generator units, each  
26 producing up to 51.25 megawatts (MWs), for a total of 820 MW, and associated

1 interconnection facilities including new 500 kV transmission lines and a new 500 kV  
2 switchyard, which SRP may later convert to a 500/230 kV substation. The new  
3 generation units will be located immediately adjacent to and south of the existing units at  
4 Coolidge Generating Station. Sixteen (16) stacks, approximately 85 feet tall, will be  
5 located adjacent to each combustion turbine generator unit. The Project will be located  
6 entirely on land owned by SRP. A general location map of the Project showing the  
7 general placement of the combustion turbine generator units and the interconnection  
8 facilities is set forth in **Exhibit A**. Because this Project is totally contained on SRP-  
9 owned land, SRP does not require a right-of-way to access the site.

#### 10 **CONDITIONS**

11 This Certificate is granted upon the following conditions:

12 1. This authorization to construct the Project shall expire five (5) years from  
13 the date this Certificate is approved by the Arizona Corporation Commission, with or  
14 without modification. Construction of the Project shall be complete, such that the Project  
15 is in-service within this five-year timeframe. However, prior to the expiration of the time  
16 period, the Applicant may request that the Commission extend the time limitation.

17 2. In the event that the Project requires an extension of the term(s) of this  
18 Certificate prior to completion of construction, the Applicant shall file such time  
19 extension request at least one hundred and eighty (180) days prior to the expiration of the  
20 Certificate. The Applicant shall use reasonable means to promptly notify the Board of  
21 Supervisors of Pinal County, the City of Coolidge and all other cities and towns within a  
22 five (5) mile radius of the Project, and all landowners and residents within a five (5) mile  
23 radius of the Project, all persons who made public comment at this proceeding who  
24 provided a mailing or email address, and all parties to this proceeding. The notification  
25 provided will include the request and the date, time, and place of the hearing or open  
26 meetings during which the Commission will consider the request for extension.

1 Notification shall be no more than three (3) business days after the Applicant is made  
2 aware of the hearing date or the open meeting date.

3 3. During the development, construction, operation, maintenance and  
4 reclamation of the Project, the Applicant shall comply with all existing applicable air and  
5 water pollution control standards and regulations, and with all existing applicable  
6 statutes, ordinances, master plans and regulations of any governmental entity having  
7 jurisdiction including, but not limited to, the United States of America, the State of  
8 Arizona, Pinal County, the City of Coolidge, and their agencies and subdivisions,  
9 including but not limited to the following:

- 10 a. All applicable land use regulations;
- 11 b. All applicable zoning stipulations and conditions including but not  
12 limited to, landscaping and dust control requirements;
- 13 c. All applicable water use, discharge and/or disposal requirements of the  
14 Arizona Department of Water Resources and the Arizona Department of  
15 Environmental Quality;
- 16 d. All applicable noise control standards and light control standards; and
- 17 e. All applicable regulations governing storage and handling of hazardous  
18 chemicals and petroleum products.

19 4. The Applicant shall obtain all approvals and permits necessary to construct,  
20 operate and maintain the Project required by any governmental entity having jurisdiction  
21 including, but not limited to, the United States of America, the State of Arizona, Pinal  
22 County, the City of Coolidge, and their agencies and subdivisions.

23 5. The Applicant shall comply with the Arizona Game and Fish Department  
24 (AGFD) guidelines for handling protected animal species, should any be encountered  
25 during construction and operation of the Project, and shall consult with AGFD or U.S.  
26 Fish and Wildlife Service, as appropriate, on other issues concerning wildlife.

1           6.     The Applicant shall design the Project's interconnection facilities to  
2 incorporate reasonable measures to minimize electrocution of and impacts to avian  
3 species in accordance with the Applicant's avian protection program. Such measures will  
4 be accomplished through incorporation of Avian Power Line Interaction Committee  
5 guidelines set forth in the current versions of *Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on*  
6 *Power Lines* and *Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines* manuals.

7           7.     The Applicant shall consult the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)  
8 with respect to cultural resources. If any archaeological, paleontological, or historical site  
9 or a significant cultural object is discovered on state, county or municipal land during the  
10 construction or operation of the Project, the Applicant or its representative in charge shall  
11 promptly report the discovery to the Director of the Arizona State Museum (ASM), and  
12 in consultation with the Director, shall immediately take all reasonable steps to secure  
13 and maintain the preservation of the discovery as required by A.R.S. § 41-844.

14           8.     The Applicant agrees to establish a Community Working Group (CWG)  
15 made up of the following members: up to 5 residents of the Randolph community; 1  
16 member designated by the Pinal County Supervisors; 1 member designated by the City of  
17 Coolidge; 2 members selected by SRP; 1 member designated by the Sierra Club, if  
18 requested by the Randolph community; and 1 member designated by Western Resource  
19 Advocates, if requested by the Randolph community. The Applicant shall act as advisor  
20 to the CWG. CWG meetings shall be noticed to and be open to the general public. The  
21 initial meeting shall take place on an evening or weekend in/or near the Community of  
22 Randolph.

23           Applicant shall retain an independent facilitator, acceptable to the CWG, to  
24 conduct the CWG meetings. It shall be the role of the facilitator to assist in conducting an  
25 orderly and productive process. The facilitator may, if necessary, employ dispute  
26 resolution mechanisms. The Scope of the CWG will include but shall not be limited to:



- Implementing a landscaping plan to:
  - visually screen the Project and mitigate noise
  - provide landscaping in Randolph public areas
- Reducing impacts of plant lighting within limits required for plant and employee safety
- Providing a grant writer to help the Randolph community seek federal and state support to address community needs
- Implementing job training and skills development for the residents of Randolph

9. Subject to approval of Pinal County and the City of Coolidge as applicable, the Applicant shall pave the following roads:

- Roads within the Randolph community
- Randolph Road between Arizona Boulevard and Vail Road
- Kleck Road between Arizona Boulevard and Vail Road
- Vail Road between Randolph Road and Kleck Road

10. The Applicant shall establish an annual scholarship program for Randolph residents with qualifications and timelines established by the CWG.

11. The Applicant shall support efforts to establish Arizona and National Historic Designations for Randolph.

12. In consultation with the CWG, the Applicant shall facilitate discussions with Pinal County, the City of Coolidge, and other appropriate authorities regarding infrastructure improvements for the Randolph community.

13. Applicant shall operate the Project so that during normal operations the Project shall comply with OSHA worker safety noise standards. Applicant agrees that it shall use reasonable efforts to minimize nighttime construction noise.

1           14.     Applicant will discontinue use of groundwater at the existing facility upon  
2 operation of the new facility and thereafter will use only stored surface water for power  
3 plant purposes.

4           15.     Applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local  
5 regulations relative to storage and transportation of chemicals used at the plant.

6           16.     Applicant agrees to maintain on file with the City of Coolidge safety and  
7 emergency plans relative to emergency conditions that may arise at the plant site. On at  
8 least an annual basis Applicant shall review and update, if necessary, the emergency  
9 plans. Copies of these plans will be made available to the public and on Applicant's web  
10 site subject to the extent plans are not confidential. Additionally, Applicant will cooperate  
11 with the City of Coolidge and the CWG to develop an emergency notification plan and to  
12 provide information to community residents relative to potential emergency situations  
13 arising from the plant or related facilities. Applicant agrees to work with the local area  
14 police and fire departments to jointly develop on-site and off-site evacuation plans, as  
15 may be reasonably appropriate. This cooperative work and plan shall be completed prior  
16 to operation of the plant expansion.

17           17.     Applicant shall install continuous emission monitoring equipment on the  
18 new units and will make available on its website emissions data from both the existing  
19 and new units according to EPA standards. Applicant shall provide information to the  
20 public on its website in order to assist the public in interpreting the data, and provide  
21 viable information in a reasonable time frame.

22           18.     The Applicant shall comply with the notice and salvage requirements of the  
23 Arizona Native Plant Law (A.R.S §§ 3-901 *et seq.*) and shall, to the extent feasible,  
24 minimize the destruction of native plants during the construction and operation of the  
25 Project.  
26

1           19.    The Applicant shall make every reasonable effort to promptly investigate,  
2 identify and correct on a case-specific basis, all complaints of interference with radio or  
3 television signals from operation of the Project addressed in this Certificate and where  
4 such interference is caused by the Project take reasonable measures to mitigate such  
5 interference. The Applicant shall maintain written records for a period of five (5) years of  
6 all complaints of radio or television interference attributable to operations, together with  
7 the corrective action taken in response to each complaint. All complaints shall be  
8 recorded to include notation on the corrective action taken. Complaints not leading to a  
9 specific action or for which there was no resolution shall be noted and explained. Upon  
10 request, the written records shall be provided to the Staff of the Commission. The  
11 Applicant shall respond to complaints and implement appropriate mitigation measures. In  
12 addition, the Project shall be evaluated on a regular basis so that damaged insulators or  
13 other line materials that could cause interference are repaired or replaced in a timely  
14 manner.

15           20.    If human remains and/or funerary objects are encountered during the course  
16 of any ground-disturbing activities related to the construction or maintenance of the  
17 Project, the Applicant shall cease work on the affected area of the Project and notify the  
18 Director of the ASM as required by A.R.S. § 41-865 for private land, or as required by  
19 A.R.S. § 41-844 for state, county, or municipal lands.

20           21.    Within one hundred twenty (120) days of the Commission's decision  
21 approving this Certificate, the Applicant shall post signs in or near public rights-of-way,  
22 to the extent authorized by law, reasonably adjacent to the Project giving notice of the  
23 Project. Such signage shall be no smaller than a roadway sign. The signs shall advise:

- 24               a. Future site of the Project;
- 25               b. A phone number and website for public information regarding the
- 26               Project; and

1 c. Refer the Public to the Docket [https://edocket.azcc.gov/search/docket-](https://edocket.azcc.gov/search/docket-search/item-detail/26170)  
2 [search/item-detail/26170](https://edocket.azcc.gov/search/docket-search/item-detail/26170).

3 Such signs shall be inspected at least once annually and, if necessary, be repaired  
4 or replaced, and removed at the completion of construction.

5 The Applicant shall make every reasonable effort to communicate the decision  
6 either approving or disapproving the Certificate in digital media.

7 22. Upon the approval of this Certificate by the Committee, the Applicant shall  
8 provide the City of Coolidge and all other cities and towns within five (5) miles of the  
9 Project, the Board of Supervisors for Pinal County, and known builders and developers  
10 who are building upon or developing land within one (1) mile of the Project with a  
11 written description, including the approximate height and width measurements of all  
12 structure types, of the Project. The written description shall identify the location of the  
13 Project and contain a pictorial depiction of the facilities being constructed. The Applicant  
14 shall also encourage the developers and builders to include this information in their  
15 disclosure statements. Upon approval of this Certificate by the Commission, the  
16 Applicant may commence construction of the Project.

17 23. The Applicant shall use non-specular conductor and non-reflective surfaces  
18 for the transmission line structures on the Project.

19 24. The Applicant shall be responsible for arranging that all field personnel  
20 involved in the Project receive training as to proper ingress, egress, and on-site working  
21 protocol for environmentally sensitive areas and activities. Contractors employing such  
22 field personnel shall maintain records documenting that the personnel have received such  
23 training.

24 25. The Applicant shall follow the most current Western Electricity  
25 Coordinating Council (WECC) and North American Electric Reliability Corporation  
26 (NERC) planning standards, as approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission



1 (FERC), National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) standards, and Federal Aviation  
2 Administration (FAA) regulations.

3 26. The Applicant shall participate in good faith in state and regional  
4 transmission study forums to coordinate transmission expansion plans related to the  
5 Project and to resolve transmission constraints in a timely manner.

6 27. When Project facilities are located parallel to and within one hundred (100)  
7 feet of any existing natural gas or hazardous pipeline, the Applicant shall:

- 8 a. Ensure grounding and cathodic protection studies are performed to show  
9 that the Project's location parallel to and within one hundred (100) feet  
10 of such pipeline results in no material adverse impacts to the pipeline or  
11 to public safety when both the pipeline and the Project are in operation.  
12 The Applicant shall take appropriate steps to ensure that any material  
13 adverse impacts are mitigated. The Applicant shall provide to Staff of  
14 the Commission, and file with Docket Control, a copy of the studies  
15 performed and additional mitigation, if any, that was implemented as  
16 part of its annual compliance-certification letter; and
- 17 b. Ensure that studies are performed simulating an outage of the Project  
18 that may be caused by the collocation of the Project parallel to and  
19 within one hundred (100) feet of the existing natural gas or hazardous  
20 liquid pipeline. The studies should either: (a) show that such simulated  
21 outage does not result in customer outages; or (b) include operating  
22 plans to minimize any resulting customer outages. The Applicant shall  
23 provide a copy of the study results to Staff of the Commission and file  
24 them with Docket Control as part of the Applicant's annual compliance  
25 certification letter.  
26

1        28. The Applicant shall submit a compliance certification letter annually,  
2 identifying progress made with respect to each condition contained in this Certificate,  
3 including which conditions have been met. The letter shall be submitted to Commission's  
4 Docket Control commencing on March 16, 2023. Attached to each certification letter  
5 shall be documentation explaining how compliance with each condition was achieved.  
6 Copies of each letter, along with the corresponding documentation, shall be submitted to  
7 the Arizona Attorney General's Office. With respect to the Project, the requirement for  
8 the compliance letter shall expire on the date the Project is placed into operation.  
9 Notification of such filing with Docket Control shall be made to the Board of Supervisors  
10 for Pinal County, City of Coolidge, all parties to this Docket, and all parties who made a  
11 limited appearance in this Docket.

12        29. The Applicant shall provide a copy of this Certificate to the Board of  
13 Supervisors for Pinal County and the City of Coolidge.

14        30. Any transfer or assignment of this Certificate shall require the assignee or  
15 successor to assume, in writing, all responsibilities of the Applicant listed in this  
16 Certificate and its conditions as required by A.R.S. § 40-360.08(A) and R14-3-213(F) of  
17 the Arizona Administrative Code.

18        31. In the event the Applicant, its assignee, or successor, seeks to modify the  
19 Certificate terms at the Commission, it shall provide copies of such request to the Board  
20 of Supervisors for Pinal County, the City of Coolidge, all parties to this Docket, and all  
21 parties who made a limited appearance in this Docket.

22        32. The Certificate Conditions shall be binding on the Applicant, its successors,  
23 assignee(s) and transferees and any affiliates, agents, or lessees of the Applicant who  
24 have a contractual relationship with the Applicant concerning the construction, operation,  
25 maintenance or reclamation of the Project. The Applicant shall provide in any  
26 agreement(s) or lease(s) pertaining to the Project that the contracting parties and/or

1 lessee(s) shall be responsible for compliance with the Conditions set forth herein, and the  
2 Applicant's responsibilities with respect to compliance with such Conditions shall not  
3 cease or be abated by reason of the fact that the Applicant is not in control of or  
4 responsible for operation and maintenance of the Project facilities.

5 33. During the proceeding, neighbors to the plant site raised significant  
6 concerns about the impact of the plant expansion on residential property values. In  
7 performing each of the conditions in this Order, Applicant, in conjunction where  
8 applicable with the CWG, Pinal County, City of Coolidge and the Randolph community,  
9 shall consider and attempt to maximize the positive effect of its activities on the values of  
10 the homes in the surrounding neighborhoods.

#### 11 **FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

12 This Certificate incorporates the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of  
13 Law:

14 1. The Project aids the state and the southwest region of the United States in  
15 meeting the need for an adequate, economical, and reliable supply of electric power.

16 2. The Project aids the state, preserving a safe and reliable electrical power  
17 system.

18 3. During the course of the hearing, the Committee considered evidence on  
19 the environmental compatibility on the Project as required by A.R.S. § 40-360 *et seq.*

20 4. The Project and the conditions placed on the Project in this Certificate  
21 effectively minimize the impact of the Project on the environment and ecology of the  
22 state.

23 5. The conditions placed on the Project in this Certificate resolve matters  
24 concerning balancing the need for the Project with its impact on the environment and  
25 ecology of the state arising during the course of the proceedings, and, as such, serve as  
26 findings and conclusions on such matters.

1           6.     The Project is in the public interest because the Project's contribution to  
2 meeting the need for an adequate, economical and reliable supply of electric power  
3 outweighs the minimized impact of the Project on the environment and ecology of the  
4 state.

5           DATED this 23 day of February, 2022.

6                                   **THE ARIZONA POWER PLANT AND**  
7                                   **TRANSMISSION LINE SITING**  
8                                   **COMMITTEE**

9  
10                                   By Paul A. Katz  
11                                   Paul A. Katz, Chairman  
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1 **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

2 Pursuant to A.A.C. R14-3-204, the **ORIGINAL** of the foregoing and 25 copies were  
3 filed this 23 day of February, 2022 with:

4 Utilities Division – Docket Control  
5 Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

6 COPIES of the above mailed this 23 day of February, 2022:

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9 rmitchell@azcc.gov

10 Elijah Abinah, Director  
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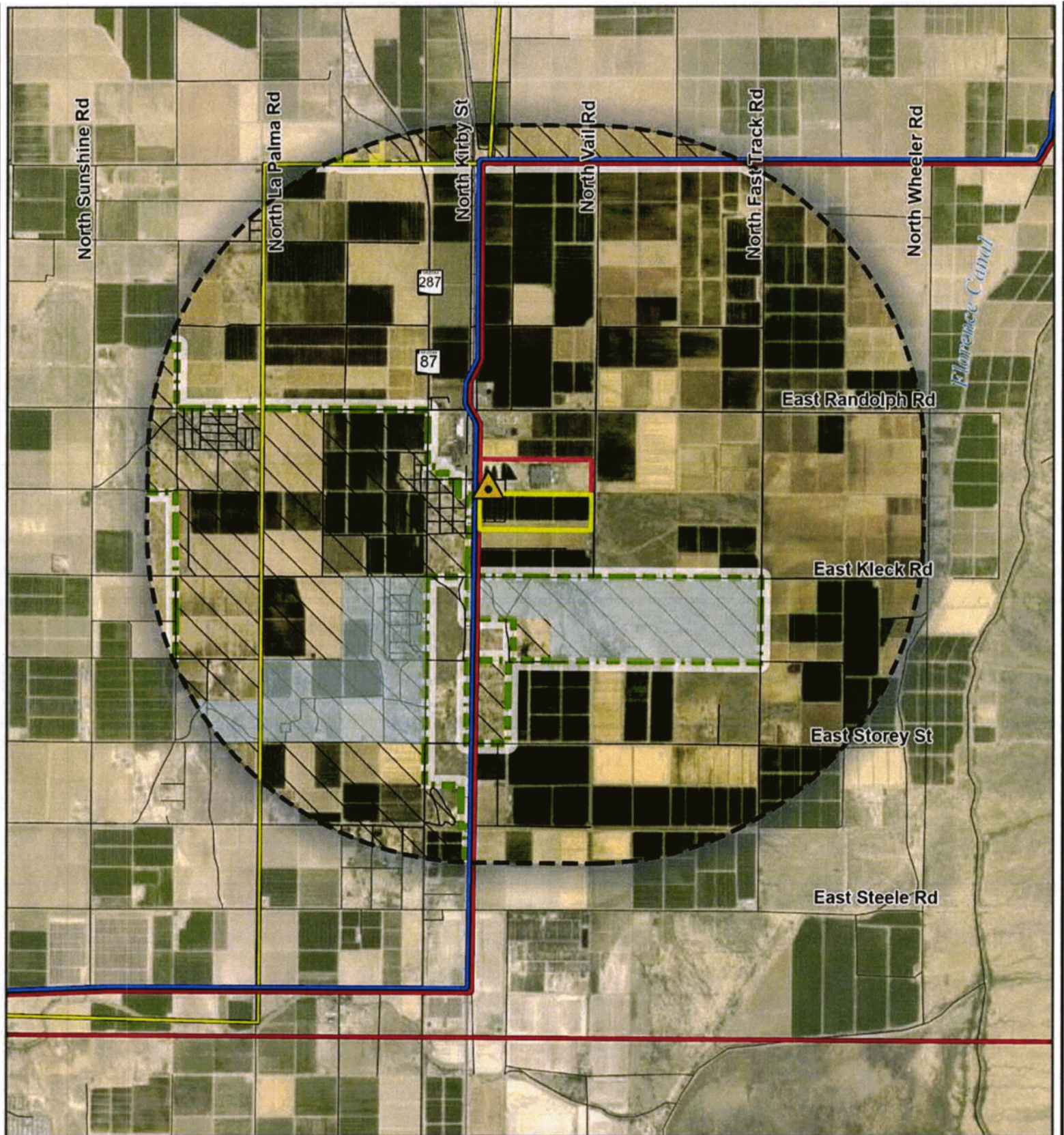
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EXHIBIT A





# **COOLIDGE EXPANSION PROJECT** **Land Ownership/ Jurisdiction**

**SWCA**  
 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

## **Project Features**

- 2 Mile Study Area
- Coolidge Expansion Project Area
- Existing CGS Facility
- Existing Switchyard

## **Reference Features**

- Roads
- Railroads

## **Jurisdiction**

- City of Coolidge
- Unincorporated Pinal County

## **Existing Transmission Facilities**

- 69kV Transmission Line
- 230kV Transmission Line
- 500kV Transmission Line

## **Land Ownership**

- Private/Other
- State
- Bureau of Land Management

Pinal County, AZ  
 USGS 7.5' Quadrangle:  
 Coolidge, AZ, 32111-H5  
 Valley Farms, AZ, 32111-H4  
 6S 8E Section 03,10,11  
 NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N  
 111.5044°W 32.9089°N

1:62,500

File: CEC Ex - A Ownership

